(d) and (e) The meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 23rd August, 2006. The delay has occurred due to administrative reasons. The recurrence of such delays will be avoided in future.

Disappearance of tigers from Sariska reserve

1845. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have found some evidence reports about the disappearance of several tigers from Sariska; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Based on directives from this Ministry, the Wildlife Institute of India has conducted an assessment of status of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve, and has reported that there is no evidence of tiger in the said Tiger Reserve. The Special Investigation Team of the Central Bureau of Investigation has also reported the disappearnace of tiger from Sariska, primarily on account of poaching.

Proposals regarding development of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Rajasthan

1846. DR.. GYAN PARKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by the Government of Rajasthan, regarding the development of National parks and sanctuaries;

(b) the number of proposals approved/still pending; and

(c) by when these proposals would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The proposals for financial assistance to National Parks and Sanctuaries under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" and "Project Tiger:' are received from the state Government every year. During the 2006-07, sixteen proposals, submitted by the Government of Rajasthan have been received by this Ministry, of which, eight have already been sanctioned. The remaining eight proposals submitted by the State Government are under process in the Ministry and decision in this regard

shall be communicated to the State as early as possible, provided the proposals are complete in respect of Utilization Certificate etc. and subject to the availability of funds. In addition, a project proposal submitted by the Government of Rajasthan on supply of water to Keoladeo National Park has been forwarded to Planning commission for necessary action.

Forest cover in Tiger Reserves

1847. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report titled "Forest Cover in Tiger Reserves in India, 2006" has revealed fast falling green cover in and around 28 tiger reserves;

(b) if so, whether this presents a new danger being faced by tiger population; and

(c) what plan of action, if any, has been prepared to restore their due forest cover for the tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) An assessment of the status of forest cover and its changes in all the 28 tiger reserves, during the period from 1997 to 2002, was carried out by the Project Tiger Directorate, through the Forest Survey of India. This also includes, for the first time, the status of the outer surrounding area of tiger reserves upto a radius of 10 km from their periphery. The details are at Statement (see below).

(b) and (c) The decrease in forest cover in the outer surround (10 km. radial distance from the periphery) of 21 tiger reserves highlights the need for restorative inputs in such areas to foster their corridor value. The States have been asked to delineate reserve specific impact zone around core areas of tiger reserves for their restoration involving local people.

Statement

Forest Cover in Tiger Reserves

Key Finding between 1997 and 2002

1. There is an increase in the forest cover of five Tiger Reserves, a decrease in 11 Tiger Reserves and no change in 12 Tiger Reserves.